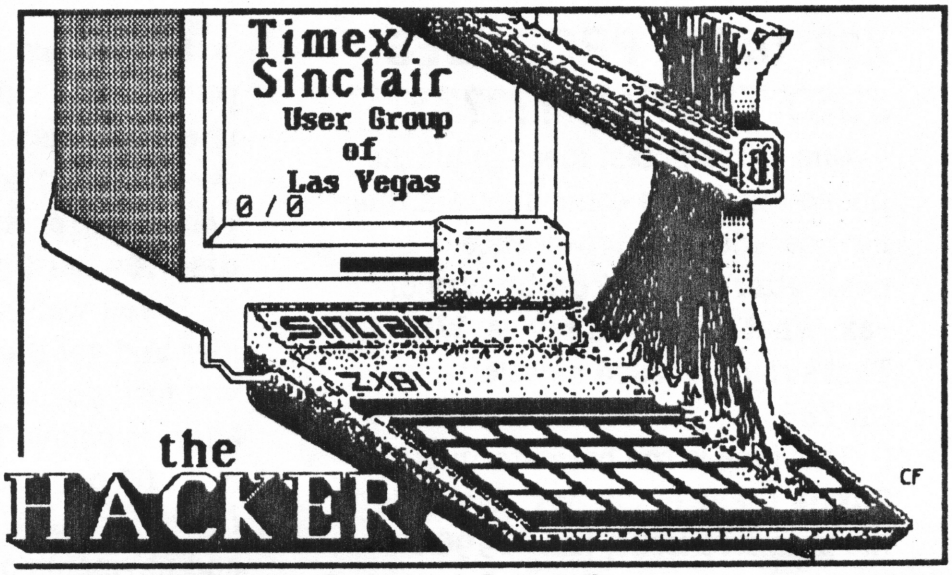

Newsletter Dedicated To All Personal Computers

"the HACKER" is an official publication of the Timex/Sinclair User Group of Las Vegas-a non profit, educational organization. Subscription to the "HACKER" is $15.00 per year (12 issues) and includes membership to TSUG of LV. Please remit to:

Ralph Hammer(treasurer)
2105 Oakwood Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89030

Meeting Date

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Mar. 18,1990------1-3 pm.
PC SIG----------3-4 pm.

Meetings are held on the 3rd. Sunday of each month. Bring a guest. All are WELCOME.

BOARD of DIRECTORS:
CHRIS FENN----------641-4082
RALPH HAMMER--------649-4127
STEVE SAWCHUK--------451-6676

CONTRIBUTING STAFF:
STEVE SAWCHUK-----EDITOR IN CHIEF
RALPH HAMMER-------CO-EDITOR
CHRIS FENN--------- ART DIRECTOR
AMY DICKINSON-----CIRCULATION MGR.

NEW YORK LAPTOP SHOW '90 RE-TITTLES SHOW THEME.

Being the start of a new year, the major trade shows are gearing up once more to show off the latest in lap-top computing. This time one of the shows that are held in the big Apple (New York), has changed names to keep up with the market.

Three years ago when the first laptop show was ran, many wondered if this specialized arena would really flourish.

Well, flourished it has, and now reports have the laptop segment of the market at over 20 % of all micro-computers being sold-with reported annual figures exceeding one billion dollars and a million units.

This year because of the changing times, the New York show has made up its own word to cover this niche-market. It's now called

LAP & PALMTOP '90. The Third Annual Trade Show will be held this year at the N.Y. Penta Hotel on May 21 & 22. Catch it.....

Z88 USER PRODUCES JUST THE FAX ?????

One of the hotest ideas to hit the phone lines have come about in this new decade. The appearence of a newsletter for the **Z88** by way of Fax. What's that you say, **A WHAT?** That's right, a faxed newsletter for the Z88.

This idea is the brainstorm of **Curtis Claar** of **Casper, Wyoming**. His premiere issue, **Jan. 1990** is three pages long and includes a list of companies that support the Z88.

Curtis was asked why he wanted to venture into the world of newsletter distribution. Here are some of the reasons he gave.

*** There are a lot of rumors going around that need to be dispelled or confirmed.**

*** It's important to have publications dedicated to specific computers.**

*** I wanted to explore the possibilities of a newspaper distributed by fax.**

If you want to explore this new idea and get the Z88 news faxed to you fast, you can contact Curtis at the address below. The subscription rate is :$1.00 per issue or $8.00 per year for 12 issues. All prices are U.S. funds and payments must be made prior to transmissions. For more information contact :

Z88 FAX NEWS
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CASPER, WY 82601 USA

please include your FAX number. Check it out.....

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by.....John Sumpolec

First off, I want to say that the article that appeared in my BBS BEAT column in the Janruary and February issue was not written by me. For those of you that use **CSHOW V7.0** to view your GIF files, I sent for Bob Berry's enhanced version. It's priced at a mere $20.00 and is well worth it. It has many more features that the other version doesn't have. I highly recommend it.

Now for this months column. I thought that a list of some out of town, out of state BBS'es might be in order. We all know who the GOOD local boards are, but most of us have to rely on the local users that use out of town boards, to tell us which ones are the best. A while back, I put a message up on 6 different local boards asking for some input on out of town boards. I got a pretty good response and also Dale Harter gave me some good information. He probably does more out of state BBS'ing than anyone I know, except for maybe Doug Crowe.

The opinions of the boards are not mine, so if you don't like a particuliar board that is listed, don't blame me. You are on your own. If, during your wanderings, you run across any other good boards, let me know as I probably have enough information for another insertion.

Some of the boards that are listed are "free" boards and some are subscription boards. If you do not subscribe to the board, you will probably run across the ratio system, where your access level will be determined on your Upload and Download ratio. Share the files you get with others as that is what makes the BBS community successful. Also if you know the answer to a particular question on one of the message bases, don't be afraid to answer it. Your answer may be of utter importance to the sender. Don't be shy.

So now for the list. Hope it helps you decide if you want to call out of state. It could be hazardous to your pocketbook and when the wife sees the phone bill, it might be hazardous to your health!

NEV. NATIONAL GUARD BBS...Carson City, NV...
384-9504...Brion Lienhart Give your name at the prompt. Then type "GUEST" at password. You will have access to D/L files on your first call. Satelite linked.

THE FORBIN PROJECT
...**319-233-6157**...QMODEM Support BBS... Registered users can D/L U/L programs. Has Q-Mail and Relay Net. Running PCBOARD with 6 nodes and 9600 Hayes modem. Full access to the board will cost you 30.00 per year.

PUBLIC BRAND SOFTWARE BBS...317-856-2087... Supports 4 nodes, 3/12/2400 baud using COER HST modem and PCBOARD. Leading distributor of Shareware. PBS catalog serves as a software guide. Everything is tested and rated. Author forums. Cost is 50.00 per year for 1hr per day access and no per min charge. Call 1-800-426-DISK to subscribe. You will be sent a user guide, a directory of software on a disk and your password.

EXEC-PC... Milwaukee,WI...414-964-5160... Bob Mahoney... Running PCBOARD with 50 nodes. Has over 1.2 gigs of software. Probably the biggest board in the country. Is directly accessable off TELENET. Has over 2000 callers per day so real busy. Has over 25 conferences on line with some of the biggest names in the PC world. The cost at last response was 50.00 but may be 60.00 now. No ZMODEM.

VBBS...Daly City, CA.. .415-994-2944... Vern Berg... Running modified RBBS-CPC 11.2. 1200/2400 baud. The busiest board in town. Run by the author of LIST. Everyone gets 45 min. on line. Uploads are not required. Has many files. D/L "ALLFILES" to get the listing. Very nice board.

PC MAGAZINE IRS...New York,NY...212-696-0360... Chris Barr... Running TBBS running at 2400 bps. This board is the Interactive Reader Service (IRS) run by ZIFF DAVIS Pub. Co. This is the place to download all thoes nifty utilities found in each issue. Of course, you can also get them from local boards as well. This is a very well run board.

MONEY CRUNCHER...Portland,OR.. .503-281-3549... Ray Barrett.. Running OPUS at 2400 bps. This board is business orientated, but is big enough that I think most everyone will find something of interest here. With 200 megs on line, it has a lot of Fidonet message areas, as well as plenty of other files to download. Very good.

TOOL SHOP...Phoenix,AZ. ..602-279-2673... Samual Smith... Running PCBoard at 2400 bps. This board is the home of "ProDOOR". This is not just a distribution board for Sam Smith's software. There are lots of great files other than ProDOOR, ProKIT, etc. It is also a node in the PCBnet echo, so you will find quite a few very active conferences going on all the time. Check it out.

CC RBBS...Petaluma,CA.. .707-792-0953... Don Watkins... Running modified RBBS-CPC 11.2 w/ZMODEM at 1200/2400 bps. This is one of thoes relaxing boards where the SYSOP believes that registration is as bad as copy protection. The board is his hobby, and is generally frequented by some of the best shareware authors in the country. The message base time does not count against your daily 50 minute allotment. Uploads are not required

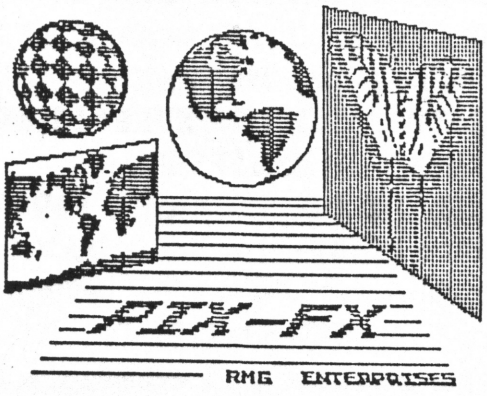
and you get full user acess the first time you log on. All the files are up to date and clean. The **DIR.ARC all-files list** has the full file description. Give it a try. Not too far away from Vegas.

TELEGODZILLA...Portland,OR.
..503-621-3746...Chuck Forsburg...
Running PRO-YAM w/ZMODEM at 1200/2400 bps. If you are into tele-communinations, this is the place for you. You should all recognize the SYSOP. He is the author of X,Y, and Z Modem transfer protocols. This is the place to log on for the latest version of ZMODEM. There isn't much else here, but if you like communications, this is the place.

MICROMART...Dallas,TX..
.214-221-7814...Rick Greer...
Running PCBoard at 2400 bps. If you like door games, this is the board to log on to. This is the home of the PCB versions of Trade Wars and Power Struggle. It is also a beta site for all kinds of games that are on-line. You can play most of them here first before they reach the local boards. Play to your hearts delight. A must for you game hounds.

PROGRAMMER'S WORKSHOP..
.Houston,TX...713-772-2090..
.Paul Meiners Running GT POWER at 2400 bps. If you are a GT fan, this is the place for you. This is the authors own board. It is the host of the GT Netmail echos as well as the place to get the latest version of GT and see future versions in action as he uses his board to beta test. You can also find all the accompanying utilities on line. The use of the board is free but the use of GT is not.

Well fellow BBS'ers, I have given you enough to spend your money, on so give them a try. I have more on my list if we continue in another issue. If you log on to any other GOOD out of town boards, be sure and let me know. Leave me all the info on RAIDERS, COMPULEX or DESERT DREAMS. I will be glad to include them in another issue. Keep the lines busy and happy BBS'ing.



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****

FROM THE DISK OF...
CHRIS FENN

There's a new file uploaded to **Phil Wheeler's Z88 support BBS in CA**.. This is a re-work by **DR Armstrong** of his **"Z88COM.BAS"** that will enable you to leave your Z88 at home and access it remotely from another terminal. It allows uploading and downloading of files but does not currently allow a message base. It does allow the viewing of text files and it maintains an activity log.It looks to be a very handy tool when you must leave the Zed behind.

....Editors note..... As of this writing. the program is experencing a few bugs and am unable to comment futher as to its use.....

AMSTRAD SHOWS SURPRISING STRENGTH, RAISES PRICES

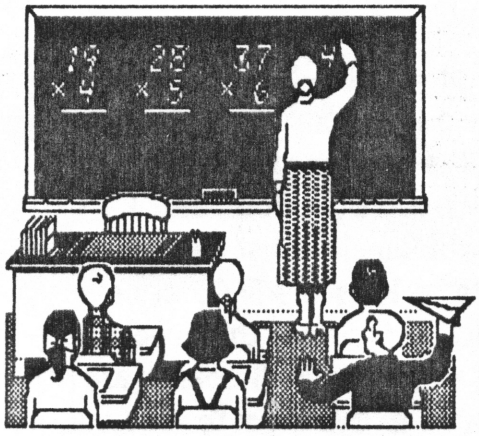
BRENTWOOD, ENGLAND, 1990 FEB 17 (NB) -- In an unexpected move, Amstrad has hiked several of its PCs by UKP 50 ($75), and has reported better than expected sales and profits figures for the half year to 31 December, 1989.

In parallel with the PC price rises, Amstrad has upped the price of its Z80-based PCW series of machines by UKP 30 ($45), and unveiled plans for a UKP 9 million media campaign, designed to boost sales out of the doldrums. During the half year to 31 December, 1989, Amstrad generated profits of UKP 30.1 million ($45 million) on sales of UKP 373.4 million. Although not sparkling, with the profits down 60 per cent and sales up 7 per cent on the same period last year, the profit figures were higher than the UKP 20 to 25 million that industry analysts had expected.

According to **Alan Sugar, chairman and founder of Amstrad,** the improved profits were due to the company taking a conservative approach to sales in the pre-Christmas run-up, resulting in higher than expected sales and therefore, profits.

Amstrad's spring promotion splits neatly into two sections. The first is a predictable UKP 7 million spread of ads across TV, radio and press media, hopefully to boost brand awareness amongst consumers. The remaining UKP 2 million is being spent on what Amstrad calls its merit initiative scheme.

The merit initiative scheme works in two ways. From the consumer's point of view, Amstrad's business computers will - from 2 April, 1990 - come with a free 12-month on-site maintenance scheme. From the dealer's point of view, the scheme allows him/her to sign up to a national repair scheme operated by Dictaphone, or assume warranty repairs themselves. If they choose to do this, a number of dealer benefits begin to accrue, making self-warranty a very attractive option. Newsbytes notes that the user benefits as well, since local warranty repairs are usually expedited faster. attractive option. Newsbytes notes that the user benefits as well, since local warranty repairs are usually expedited faster.



U.N.L.V. BUYS LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR CLASSROOMS

The **UNLV** Division of Continuing Education has recently purchased **20 Zenith laptop computers for $60,000.**

"In the past we were always tied to the fixed personal computer laboratories on campus" said **Ann Tate, Continuing Education computer training cooridinator.** "Now we can offer hands-on computer training in any classroom on or off campus."

The division plans to use the laptops for a word processing class which started Feb. 20th., a computer literacy class which started Feb. 21st, and other classes.

ed. note..... Why didn't someone tell them about the Z88? They could have gotten a lot more than 20 for $60,000 and would have been much lighter to haul around.....

ADVERTISER'S SPECIAL

The "HACKER" will run for its commerical readers, a 1/2 page ad, for six months, for $30. That's only $5. per issue. Send your ad's to the: "HACKER" c/o of this N/L.

LOCAL MEMBER IN SEARCH OF PC8300'S

Remember those cute little **PC8300's**? You know, the ones that looked like the TS1500, but only spoke Chinese.

Well, we have a local member, **Grant Hudlow**, who is in search of anyone who has or knows if they are still available. If you have any info on these cheap wonders from China, please let Grant know. You can write him at the address below if you have any information.. Or maybe we can get Leonard Nemoy to do a TV show on their whereabouts. Remember, **IN SEARCH OF.....**

Grant Hudlow
HCR 65 Box72608
Pahrump, NV 89041

If you do have any info., help out a Timex user and pass it on.

2068 FIX STAR NX-1000/AERCO CENTRONICS I/F FIX

Richard Hurd reports in the latest issue of **SINC-LINK** newsletter that he has found a way to use a Star NX-1000 printer with a 2068 and a AERCO Centronics printer interface. Richard reports the following.....

" I purchased a new Star NX 1000 Multi-Font printer about a month ago only to find that it would not work with the AERCO Centronics printer interface and the 2068.

I started writing requests for help to everyone I could think of and today I received word back from **John Oliger** with a suggestion for a fix. Invert the **STROBE line**. It worked!

If you want more info about this project, you can get the diagram from the Jan-Feb issue of SINC-LINK' 90

The editor of SINC-LINK writes that "since a large portion of SINC-LINK is published on a Star NX-1000 driven by a 2068 and I have no problems, I must assume that my Peter Hacsell AERCO-style printer interface solves the problem described above. Hackell boards are still available in the Toronto area via our club. For more info drop them a line. they will be more than happy to help out.

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

RENEWAL NOTICE

This notice is to remind the following people that their subscription/membership is due on **April 1, 1990**

Mr. Robert Borgens

Without your support, We can't function. Please renew today.

I'D RATHER FIGHT THAN SWITCH ??

In a very recent issue of the **CATS newsletter**(Washington, D.C.), there was an item of interest. In fact this ruffled my feathers. It seems that someone named **David Hartman,** went to great lenghts to receive a refund and/or back issues of **TDM.** REALLY NOW !!!!!!!!

So I whipped out my thesaurus

Huzzah Huzzah — A Plethora of Plaudits

Copius Congratulations — Monumental Merits

Salutorious Sentiments — Ruffling of Feathers

Know all men by these presents, that by virtue of the inherent verbosity and the categorically consistent contumacity in the spectrum of the humility and the realm of ego inflation, that this testimony of taurine traditionalism is conferred on this august personage.

—o—

We, the awed partakers, the philistines, plebian peasants, and poor peons do herewith grovel with sinking hearts for your miniscule deed of inconsequential puffery so that we may be indeed be flattered by your sincere and abiding desire to obtain less than $20.00, and to infuse our mundane existence with such a titillating untriumphal accomplishment do award to:

David Hartman, this 27th of Feb, 1990

as acknowledgement of impressive feats, great acts, and minute traits of True Divinity.

"Boy, am I impressed"

George Armstrong Custer

Sunday, 25 June, 1876

This month, we present a couple of T/S 1000 and/or 1500 programs for your enjoyment. I found them to be useful. Maybe you can too. All programs were origianally printed in the "K Power Collection of 10 awesome, original, unusual, super, fantastic computer puzzles and games", published by SCHOLASTIC INC. in 1984.

```
  1 REM *** DRAWING TIMEX ***
 10 CLS
 20 PRINT "THE DRAWING KEYS
ARE:"
 30 PRINT
 40 PRINT "5=LEFT 6=DOWN 7=UP
8=RIGHT"
 50 PRINT
 60 PRINT "PRESS <ENTER> TO
BEGIN."
 70 LET K$=INKEY$
 80 IF K$="" THEN GOTO 70
 90 CLS
 99 REM *** INITIALIZE VARIABLES
***
100 LET RO=11
110 LET CO=15
120 LET CH=128
129 REM *** SCREEN DISPLAY ***
130 PRINT AT 20,3;"PRESS C TO
CHANGE CHARACTER"
140 PRINT AT 21,3;"PRESS S TO
CLEAR SCREEN"
150 GOTO 500
199 REM *** READ KEYBOARD ***
200 LET K$=INKEY$
210 IF K$="" THEN GOTO 200
220 IF K$="S" THEN GOTO 90
230 IF K$="C" THEN GOTO 400
240 IF K$="5" THEN LET CO=CO-1
250 IF K$="6" THEN LET RO=RO+1
260 IF K$="7" THEN LET RO=RO-1
270 IF K$="8" THEN LET CO=CO+1
280 RETURN
399 REM *** CHANGE CHARACTER
***
400 LET CH=CH+1
410 IF CH=139 THEN LET CH=0
420 IF CH=1 THEN LET CH=128
430 RETURN
499 REM *** DRAWING LOOP ***
500 IF CO>31 THEN LET CO=0
510 IF CO<0 THEN LET CO=31
520 IF RO>19 THEN LET RO=0
530 IF RO<0 THEN LET RO=19
540 PRINT AT RO,RO;CHR# (CH)
550 GOSUB 200
560 GOTO 500
```

```
  1 REM *** TEAM BATTING AVERAGE
***
 10 CLS
 20 PRINT "TEAM BATTING AVERAGE
PROGRAM"
 30 PRINT
 40 PRINT "PRESS <ENTER> AFTER
EACH REPLY."
 50 PRINT
 60 PRINT "HOW MANY PLAYERS?";
 70 INPUT P
 79 REM *** DIMENSION ARRAYS ***
 80 DIM P$(P,15)
 90 DIM B(P)
100 DIM W(P)
110 DIM H(P)
119 REM *** INPUT VARIABLES ***
120 CLS
130 PRINT " PLEASE ANSWER THE
QUESTIONS."
140 PRINT "PRESS <ENTER> AFTER
EACH REPLY."
150 PRINT
160 FOR T=1 TO P
170 PRINT "WHAT IS THE NAME OF"
180 PRINT "PLAYER NUMBER ";T;"?"
190 INPUT P$(T)
200 PRINT
210 PRINT "WHAT WERE THE TOTAL"
220 PRINT "AT BATS FOR
";P$(T);"?"
230 INPUT B(T)
240 PRINT
250 PRINT "HOW MANY WALKS AND
SACRIFICES?"
260 INPUT W(T)
270 PRINT
280 PRINT "HOW MANY HITS?"
290 INPUT H(T)
300 IF H(T)+W(T)>B(T) THEN GOTO
240
310 CLS
320 NEXT T
330 PRINT "AVERAGE","PLAYER"
340 PRINT
350 LET Q=0
360 LET Y=0
370 LET U=0
380 LET V=0
390 LET A=0
399 REM *** FIGURE AVERAGES ***
400 FOR T=1 TO P
410 LET G=H(T)/(B(T)-W(T))
419 REM *** ROUND OFF TO THREE
DIGITS ***
420 LET A=INT (G*1000+.5)/1000
430 LET Q=Q+B(T)
440 LET Y=Y+H(T)
450 LET U=U+W(T)
459 REM *** PRINT AVERAGES ***
460 PRINT A,P$(T)
470 NEXT T
480 PRINT
490 LET V=Y/(Q-U)
500 PRINT "TEAM AVERAGE=";INT
(V*1000+.5)/1000
510 PRINT
520 PRINT "PRESS <ENTER> TO RUN
AGAIN."
530 INPUT C$
540 RUN
```

```
  1 REM *** GRAPHIC FANTASY ***
 10 CLS
 20 RAND
 29 REM *** INITIALIZE VARIABLES
***
 30 LET S=INT (RND*5)+1
 40 LET A=0
 50 LET B=31
 60 LET C=0
 70 LET D=21
 80 LET CH=INT (RND*9)+2
 99 REM *** MAIN LOOP ***
100 FOR X=A TO B STEP S
110 PRINT AT C,X;CHR$ (CH)
120 NEXT X
130 FOR X=C TO D STEP S
140 PRINT AT X,B;CHR$ (CH)
150 NEXT X
160 FOR X=B TO A STEP -S
170 PRINT AT D,X;CHR$ (CH)
180 NEXT X
190 FOR X=D TO C STEP -S
200 PRINT AT X,A;CHR$ (CH)
210 NEXT X
219 REM *** REDEFINE VARIABLES
***
220 LET A=A+1
230 LET B=B-1
240 LET C=C+1
250 LET D=D-1
260 IF C>21 THEN GOTO 20
270 GOTO 100
```